

**INTERIM LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY SYSTEM
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES COMPONENT

Project Name: _____

Date: ____________

USFWS Ecosystem: _____

Region: _____

BACKGROUND

The Endangered Species Component may score a cumulative maximum of 200 points. The 200 point limit also exists for other LAPS criteria (e.g., Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bird Conservation, and Ecosystem Conservation). The criteria were developed in order to provide a more quantitative assessment of the Endangered and Threatened Species Component. This component should help conserve and recover endangered and threatened species through Service land acquisition activities. The criteria for the Endangered and Threatened Species Component are based on the role and responsibilities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- To conserve and recover listed, and proposed species;
- To protect habitats on which listed and proposed species depend;
- To restore depleted populations and/or habitat to preclude the necessity for listing actions;

The Endangered and Threatened Species Component is designed to evaluate and rank projects based on the ability of the project to contribute toward Service objectives. Your responses regarding “the project” should be based on the entire area within the approved acquisition boundary. Targeted species are primarily those listed as endangered or threatened under 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12, whose populations or performance as components of their habitats and ecosystems have been reduced to the point of potential extinction or potential to become threatened with extinction in the foreseeable future. Such circumstances may be caused by a wide variety of factors such as habitat loss due to the present or threatened destruction, modification, curtailment of its habitat or range, over exploitation for commercial, scientific, recreational or educational purposes, disease, predation, or competition from non-native or non-indigenous species, the inadequacy of existing regulations or conservation measures, or other natural or manmade factors affecting the species potential for continued existence. Emphasis for the land acquisition priority ranking process is placed on indigenous or native species within their original ranges and their habitats. The underlying premise for acquisition is that habitat is prerequisite and limiting to species management.

COMPONENT CRITERIA

Each endangered or threatened species (space provided but NOT limited to twelve species) will be evaluated separately (30 points maximum/species) by the following criteria (A-C) on the Endangered and Threatened Data Input Form—you need to make copies of p. 2.6 if you have >1 species to complete Criteria A-C for. All species' A-C points will be added to a Factor D subtotal for a component total not to exceed 200 points.

List project endangered or threatened species:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |

★ *Project will prevent extinction of (any) species listed above: No ___ Yes ___ [200 Points]*

Endangered Species Extinction Element Description.

On occasion a project may be identified that would effectively prevent the extinction of a proposed or listed species and achieve a significant degree of long-term protection and recovery objectives. Such a project may be nominated for the maximum number of points allowed for the endangered species component of LAPS. To receive maximum points, the threats to the species and the benefits of the project will require documentation and the written support of the Regional Director. Once the Regional Director's support has been secured, the project may be elevated to the Service Director for concurrence. Projects approved in this manner will receive full points for the endangered species component. Additional project prioritization, if any, will be at the discretion of the Director.

Factor A - Population Information (Maximum 17 points)

1. Species list status is: Endangered ____; Proposed Endangered ____;
Threatened ____; or Proposed Threatened ____.

This criterion identifies the species being described with reference to its status as a federally protected species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

2. Existing status of habitat protection for known species population:
<20% ____; 21-40% ____; 41-60% ____; 61-80% ____; or >80% ____.

This parameter should describe the percent of the known population that is currently protected. The value given should be cumulative, representing the percent of total population that is protected by acquisition, HCPs, or other arrangement on Federal, State, Tribal and private lands.

3. Degree of threat to the species population within the project area:
None ____; Low ____; Moderate ____; High ____.

Identify the most appropriate condition to describe the status of threats to the species at the location of the proposed acquisition. Though a species may be endangered or threatened throughout its range, certain localities where the species occur may present higher or lower degrees of threat than others to the population or population segment of concern.

4. Will project acquisitions contribute to a specific recovery goal as defined in a Recovery Plan?
Yes ____; No ____

5. The recovery priority is: 1-6 ____; 7-12 ____; 13-18 ____; no # assigned: ____

This criterion is based on the Service's recovery priority system and should reflect the current status of the species being described. This information is available from the Service's endangered species website at: <http://www.fws.gov/r9endspp/lspinfo.html/>

6. Population trend: Declining ____; Unknown ____; Stable ____; or Increasing ____.

This criterion should describe the population status of the entire known population(s) of the species being described.

Factor B - Habitat Use Description (Maximum 4 pts.)

1. Occasional____; Seasonal____; Resident plant, invertebrate or vertebrate species ____.

This criterion should describe the use of the habitat being considered for acquisition. Does the species make occasional transient use of the habitat? Seasonal use is defined as providing habitat for essential behaviors such as breeding, rearing of young, migration, and overwintering. Is the plant, invertebrate or vertebrate organism being described one whose entire life is spent within the project boundary? An area that could be periodically occupied by geographically wide ranging species would represent occasional, not residential, or necessarily seasonal use habitat.

Factor C - Rationale (Maximum 8 pts)

1. For each species identified, please indicate the rationale for acquisition (choose one only).
Maintain population____; Increase population____;
Complete Recovery Plan goal ____; Contribute to downgrade action ____ ;
Contribute to delist action ____

This criterion may be accompanied by a short narrative. In some cases acquisition may lead to the completion of identified recovery goals as defined in an approved recovery plan, or go so far as to contribute to the downlisting or delisting of a species.

2. Habitat restoration needed: None____; Low____; Moderate____; or High____.

This criterion should provide a reasonable estimate of the amount of habitat restoration that would be required to achieve optimal conditions for the listed species being described. The assessment may be accompanied by a supporting, but brief narrative. The highest value would be for projects which require little or no restoration and that provide maximum conservation, habitat and recovery values for a listed or proposed species. Projects requiring more extensive habitat restoration activity would be ranked progressively lower though this may not always be the case. It is conceivable that an area of moderate or high habitat restoration need may be more critical to the conservation and recovery of a species, or species population segment, than a project that would provide more optimal conditions elsewhere. Also, habitat restoration assessment may be considered in the context of possible future species reintroduction, recolonization and population augmentation. There may be no listed species on the propose project at the time of nomination, but if appropriate or restorable habitat is known to occur, this criterion should be identified for its appropriate species and potential value. Description of potential acquisitions of this nature should be identified in an approved recovery plan or by other supportive documentation. A short narrative may be attached.

Factor D - Additional Information and Comments

This section requires answering only once for a project, regardless of how many endangered and threatened species you've evaluated for Factors A-C. The criteria in this section are answered as yes or no, and in some cases, request a brief narrative. Questions D3-5 are not limited to two species per category. Therefore, the total score for Factor D is only limited by the cumulative score of 200 points for the component.

1. Is the proposed project part of a larger habitat or landscape-scale conservation effort?

Yes ___ No ___

Brief Description: _____

2. Does the proposed project represent a functional habitat unit wherein the natural site conditions that support the species are maintained? Yes ___ No ___

Brief Description: _____

3. Is the proposed project part of other listed species' historical range and potentially suited for reintroduction? If yes, list (no limit):

4. Does the proposed project address needs of species identified in Candidate Notice of Review. If yes, list (no limit):

Additional Comments:

INTERIM LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY SYSTEM
Endangered and Threatened Species Component
Data Input Form

(make copies of this page for multiple species)

Project Name: _____ **Date:** ____________
USFWS Ecosystem: _____ **Region:** _____

Species : _____ #: _____

' *Project will prevent extinction of (any) species listed above: No* ____ *Yes* ____ [200 Points]

Attach explanation of how project will prevent species extinction.

Factor A - Population Information

1. List Status: Endangered (or Proposed E) [3] Threatened (or Proposed T) [2]
2. % Population Protected: <20% [4] 21-40% [3] 41-60% [2] 60-80% [2] >80% [0]
3. Degree of Threat: None [0] Low [1] Moderate [2] High [3]
4. Contributes to specific recovery goal in Recovery Plan: Yes [1] No [0]
5. Recovery Priority #: 1-6 [3] 7-12 [2] 13-18 [1] No RP# [0]
6. Population Trend: Declining [4] Unknown [3] Stable [2] Increasing [0]

Factor B - Habitat Use Description

1. Occasional [0] Seasonal [3] Resident plant, invertebrate, or vertebrate species [4]

Factor C - Rationale

1. Maintain population [0] Increase population [1] Complete Recovery Plan Goal [2]
Contribute to downgrading [3] Contribute to delisting [4]

Explanation: _____

2. Habitat Restoration Need: None [4] Low [3] Moderate [2] High [0]
Brief description of measures needed to restore habitat:

Species # ____ **POINT TOTAL:** _____ (Maximum 30 points)

Factor D - Additional Information

1. Is the proposed project part of a larger habitat or landscape-scale conservation effort?
Yes [3] No [0]

Brief Description: _____

2. Does the proposed project represent a functional habitat unit wherein the natural site conditions that support the species are maintained? Yes [3] No [0]

Brief Description: _____

3. Is the proposed project part of other listed species' historical range and potentially suited for reintroduction? If yes, list (no limit, 2 points per species):

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 6) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 7) _____ |
| 4) _____ | 8) _____ |

4. Does the proposed project address needs of species identified in the Candidate Notice of Review? If yes, list (no limit, 2 points per species):

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 6) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 7) _____ |
| 4) _____ | 8) _____ |

Additional Comments:

TOTAL FACTOR D Score: _____

Component Total Possible Points = 200.

Total Points: Add Species Factor Scores + Factor D Score = _____